

# Registration of disability service providers

## *Disability Act 2006*

### **Introduction**

The *Disability Act 2006* (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2007. The Act has enhanced quality and accountability mechanisms that include registering community service organisations that provide disability services.

### **What is the purpose of registration?**

The purpose of registration is to clarify which community service organisations must comply with the Act. The community service organisations that are on the register are known as 'disability service providers' and they must manage their disability services in the way the Act says.

### **Who has to be registered?**

Community service organisations that provide a disability service must be registered with the Department of Human Services.

### **Will the registration list be public?**

The Act says that a list of registered disability service providers must be made available for public inspection. The department will do this by publishing the list on its website.

### **How is registration achieved?**

Organisations that have a contract with the Secretary of the Department of Human Services to provide disability services – which are services that are specifically for the support of people with a disability – must be registered.

### **How long does registration last?**

Registration will generally last for three years.

### **How does registration end?**

Registration is for a set period and, at the end of that period, registration simply ends. From that time, the disability service provider may no longer provide disability services and funding will cease. Community service organisations will be required to apply to renew their registration if they wish to continue to receive funds to provide disability services.

Registration may end if the disability service provider stops being a provider of disability services. The Secretary can also remove an organisation from the register, or 'revoke' registration. This can happen if, for instance, the disability service provider fails to do what the Act requires.

### **Who will not be registered?**

Disability services provided by the Department of Human Services will not be registered. However, the Secretary is defined as a disability service provider by the Act, so the Act also applies to disability services provided by the Department of Human Services.

The department funds a range of activities through the disability services program that are not considered disability services and funding for these purposes will not require registration. This includes the Aids and Equipment program. Services that people with a disability access as part of their normal participation in the community will not be registered. These include gymnasiums, doctors and dentists. If someone has an individual support package, the service provider they get their services from will not be registered unless they also have a service agreement with the Secretary.

Individuals will not be registered.

### **For more information about the registration of disability service providers, contact:**

Disability Services Division, Department of Human Services  
Telephone: 1300 366 731 (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday)  
TTY: (03) 9096 0133 (for people who are deaf or have a hearing, speech or communication impairment)  
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